RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 20th December, 1994
29th Agrahayan, 1916 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Merger of DA with Pay and Grant of Interim Relief

*181. SHRI HIPHEI :†
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been moved to request the 5th Central Pay Commission to look in to demand of Employees for grant of interim relief and marger of a portion of dearness allowance with pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reaction of the 5th Pay Commission thereto;

(c) wether Government propose to ask the 5th Central Pay Commission to submit its report within 18 months in accordance with its terms of reference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the terms of reference, the Pay Commission is required to make its recommendations as soon as feasible.

SHRI HIPHEI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not very much enlightening. The main question is whether the Government has been moved to request the Fifth Central Pay Commission for merger of a portion of dearness allowance with basic pay. The Minister says, "The matter is still under consideration of the Government" Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Fifth Pay Commission has been appointed almost a year back; and by now the terms of reference should have been finalised. If the matter is still under consideration, my only question is whether a request has been made to the Fifth Pay Commission to include this point in the terms of reference.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the staff side have raised further demands for the grant of second instalment of interim relief and also further merger of dearness allowance with pay. These demands were discussed in the last meeting on the JCM on the 26th November, 1994. It was mutually agreed that the Government would move to request the Fifth Pay Commission to look into these demands and submit a report, if the Commission feels that it will not be possible for them to submit their final report within a period of 18 months from the date of appointment.

SHRI HIPHEI : Sir, now, wage was not included in the agreement. In view of the present hike, the amount of Rs. 100 per month as interim relief seems to be very little. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to enhance the quantum of interim relief for the Central Government employees. That is part (a) of my supplementary. Part (b) is whether the Government also intends to convert at least 50 per cent of the dearness allowance paid into basic for pension and other benefits. Part (c) of my question is whether the Government is also proposing to raise the retirement age from 58 to 60 years. Sir, with the improvement of the health-care system, the longevity of human life is also improving. Man or woman at the age of 58 years, is still energetic and strong. If people are to retire at the age of 58 years, we are losing experienced hands. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is intending to raise the retirement age from 58 to 60 years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. *(Interruptions).* Do you have part (d) also?

SHRI HIPHEI : Sir, the Fifth Pay Commission was constituted a year back. According to my information, they do not even have an office as yet. If that is the case, they are going to request for extension of the time limit. It seems they are not going to submit their report within the stipulated time of 18 months. In case their report is delayed, is the Government going to pay a second instalment of interim relief?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member about the welfare of Government employees. We are equally concerned to provide terms and conditions of service appropriate to the circumstances and having regard to the financial resources available to the Government. But all these matters are being discussed in the JCM. These issues come up before the JCM over which the Cabinet Secretary presides. The representatives of the staff side there have agreed on a package that the two demands with regard to the second instalment of interim relief and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Hiphei.

the further merger of D.A. with pay, the Government will be moved to request the Pay Commision to look into these demands and submit a report if the Commission feels that it will not be able to submit its final report by October 8, 1995. So, whatever action is required, is being taken in accordance with what has been agreed upon in the JCM. Beyond that, we have no other proposals under consideration.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिंदे : महोदय, जब तक अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर पे कमीशन की नियुक्ति होती है तो देश में कई स्टेट्स की सरकारें हैं, उन्होंने यह तय किया है कि—They will go with the Central Pay Com mission.

वित्त मंत्री जी ने उत्तर देते वक्त भी कहा कि—"We have to look into the resourecs".

यह भी आपकी सरकार के ख्याल में है क्या कि जब स्टेट की सरकारें फिफ्थ या फोर्थ कमीशन के आधार पर उनकी पे तय कर लेती हैं तो उनके रिसोर्सेज बहुत कम होते हैं ? तो ऐसे वक्त उसमें मेरा क्वेश्चन-ए यह रहेगा कि—प्लानिंग कमीशन या वित्त मंत्रालय इसमें विशेष ध्यान देकर क्या कुछ विशेष ग्रांट्स-इन-एड ऐसे समय स्टेट की सरकारों को देगी ?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल रहेगा कि—फोर्थ पे-कमीशन की कितनी रिकमण्डेशंस को आपने स्वीकार किया है और कितने नहीं किया ? क्योंकि यह सवाल इसलिए आता है कि आपने एक स्तर पर ऐसा किया है कि—

Suppose the index is 100 and the DA comes to Rs. 100, 50 per cent of that DA should be merged with the actual pay. That was the recommendation made by the Fourth Pay Commission and that has not yet been considered. If that has not yet been Considered, there is no use of the Joint Consultative Machinery again recommending this thing to the Fifth Pay Commission. This becomes a recommendation only. If it is accepted, I will be the happiest person. Will the Finance Minister throw light on these two aspects?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, with regard to the question as to how many recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission have been accepted and how many recommendations have not been accepted, I need a separate notice. But I would like to say that we have very cordial relations with our employees. The Joint Consultative Machinery is functioning with the requisite degree of efficiency, consideration and concern. As of now, the two sides in the JCM have agreed on the course of action that is to be taken. Now, the second part of the hon. Member's question whether the Central Government is contemplating any grants to the State Governments, the Central Government has no such proposal under consideration.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, my question is that in the private sector, very high salaries are being paid and I would like to ask the Government to kindly enlighten us how the Government servants will be treated. They will also raise their demands before the Pay Commission for higher emoluments whether in the shape of DA or in shape of salaries. Now, the Government's saying that the resources are limited, they will not be able to pay that much salary which will be asked, will not help. There are already resolutions passed by various associations asking for very high emoluments. Now, will this situation not lead to demoralisation in the services, their demands being not considered? There would be a lot of difference between the emoluments drawn by a private sector employee and the emoluments drawn by a government employee. Will it not lead to a lot of inefficiency, corruption and all types of mal-practices? Is the Government considering the basic issue involved?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, what the hon. Member stated, has no relation to the question that is being asked. But, I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the House as to what was happening earlier in the private sector. In a number of cases that have come to my notice, salaries were being paid under the table. As a result of stricter enforcement of tax laws we are now insisting that all this should be brought on to the surface and to that extent, I think, it is a good development that people are declaring truly what salaries they are paid. Erlier, they were paying salaries which were being paid under the table and they were not paying their taxes. To that extent, I think it is not an undesirable development. I don't believe that we should jump to any conclusion as to what will be the salary structure recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission. The Pay Commission is aware of the relativity; it is also aware of the resources available to the Central Government, it is also aware of the competing claims on our resources. I think, when the report comes that would be the appropriate occasion to debate these issues.

श्री अनंतराम जायसवाल : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी, यह बताएंगे कि प्रश्नगत अनुरोध सरकार को कब प्राप्त हुआ था और उसके निस्तारण में सरकार अभी कितना समय लेगी और कब तक इसको वेतन आयोग के सुपुर्द करेगी ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the decision in the National Council of the JCM, about which I have already made a reference, was taken on

the 26th of November, 1994. This decision or this recommendation is now being processed in the Government.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापती महोदय, भारत में राष्ट्रीय वेतन के संबंध में क्या सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय वेतन नीति तैयार करेगी तथा वेतन संबंधी अन्य समस्याओं के लिए बार-बार यह मांग उठाई जाती रही है कि क्या सरकार कोई राष्ट्रीय वेतन नीति तैयार करेगी ?

सभापति महोदय, चौथे राष्ट्रीय वेतन आयोग ने यह सिफारिश भी की थी और सरकार से यह जानना चाहा था कि क्या हमारे देश में ऐसे प्रोफेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशन्स है जो आम तौर पर सरकारी कर्मचारियो के वेतन के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन करते हों ? हमेशा यह होता है कि जब हमारा वेतन आयोग कोई सिफारिश करता है तो उसे शून्य से शुरू करना पड़ता है तो ऐसा क्यों होता है और इस संदर्भ में और चौथे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के संदर्भ में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगी, यह मेरे क्वेश्चन का पार्ट "ए" है कि क्या कोई राष्ट्रीय वेतन नीति तैयार करने के लिए वे विचार कर रहे हैं या नहीं ? और इसी से जुड़ा हुआ मेरा पार्ट "बी" यह है सभापति महोदय कि आज जब हमारे खासकर वित्त मंत्री उदारीकरण की नीति की ओर बढ़ रहे है, मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या यह सच है कि पांचवे वेतन आयोग ने जो अपनी प्रश्नावली तैयार की है अपने काम के लिए, उस प्रश्नावली में क्या उन्होंने ऐसे प्रश्न भी तैयार किए है जिनकी पेरिफरी, जिनकी परिधि सिर्फ कर्मचारियों के वेतन तक सीमित नहीं है बल्कि उससे कहीं और जाकर सरकार को यह उपाय सुझा रही है कि मजदूरों की, कर्मचारियों की छंटाई कैसे की जा सकती है ? तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या यह सच है ? और अगर नही तो पांचवे वेतन आयोग की टर्म्स ऑफ रेफरेन्स क्या हैं, उसका खुलासा यहां करें ।

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the terms of the Fifth Pay Commission have already been published, but for the benefit of hon. Members I can read it out again, if you so desire.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place it on the Table.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: But what about the first part of my question, Sir.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: With regard to the first part, about a National Wages and Incomes Policy, I think this has been aired for the last 45 years in our country. Also, I would say that outside the former command economy of Eastern Europe, nowhere else this sort of national wages and incomes policies have been found to be viable except in a period of emergency or war. There are practical difficulties of implementing such a decision. When the former Janata Dal Government was in power in 1977—1979, they thought of appointing a committee. Mr. Bothalingam was appointed to go into that question. I do not want to go into what happened subsequently. The Government itself found that those things were not easy to implement ... *(Interruptions)* ...

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : सभापति महोदय, वित्त मंत्री जी ने अभी यह बात कही है कि जे०सी० एम० बहुत अच्छा काम कर रही है और इम्प्लॉइज बहुत खुश हैं और हमारे उनसे संबंध बहुत अच्छे हैं । मैं समझता हूं कि यह हाऊस को और देश को मिसलीड किया जा रहा है । कर्मचारी बहुत दुखी हैं, उनकी स्थिति बहुत खराब है । इस वक्त इतनी महंगाई बढ़ रही है और ये फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर के बार-बार पूरा एसर्ट करने के बाद भी अब टू डिजिट्स में आ गई है करीब-करीब । साढ़े नौ, दस प्रतिशत महंगाई बढ़ गई है । दालें बीस रुपये से कम कोई मिल नहीं रही है । यहाँ पर हर आदमी की कमर टूट गई है और ऐसी स्थिति मे जो डीयरनेस एलाउंस मिलता है उससे परचेजिंग पावर कम होती जाती है । मंहगाई का 75 परसेंट, 50 परसेंट आप उसको देते हैं और बहुत सी चीजें तो मिल ही नहीं पाती हैं । ऐसी हालत में जो आपने कहा है कि इंटेरिम रिलीफ सेकेंड किस्त देने के बारे में, आप उसका फौरी तौर पर फैसला क्यों नहीं करते ? सौ रुपये के इंटेरिम रिलीफ से सरकारी कर्मचारी बहुत खराब स्थिति में है और खासकर, क्लास थ्री और क्लास फोर के, उनके लिए जिंदगी चलाना ही इम्पॉसिबल हो रहा है । घर के कौन से खर्च काटें ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sum up.

श्री विजयकुमार मल्होत्रा : मैं यही पूछना चाहता हूं कि सेकेंड इंस्टॉलमेंट देने की जो बात है, उसको इतना डिले क्यों कर रहे हैं, उन पर क्यों छोड़ रहे हैं ? आज सीधे तौर पर कर्मचारियों ने तो कहा है कि फौरन दी जानी चाहिए जे०सी०एम में । तो आप उसको फौरन दिलाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, as I have already mentioned, in terms of the agreement reached in the JCM, we are processing this recommendation to forward it to the Pay Commission for appropriate action.

भारतीय कालीनों का निर्यात

*182. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन देशों को कालीनों का कितना-कितना निर्यात किया गया;